

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

## **on launching the Baltic Sea Region Network of Cultural Planning Hubs**

### **Preamble**

**Acknowledging** the importance of citizen-driven development and active cooperation between citizens and authorities in co-creating better living places (urban neighbourhoods, towns, rural communities),

**Recognizing** that the present document is an expression of intent and none of the clauses of this document shall be construed as a legal obligation except that the parties shall be participating in the network.

This MoU is created building on the results of the BSR Interreg project “Cultural Planning as a Method for Urban Social Innovation” (acronym: Urb Cultural Planning), as agreed in the UrbCulturalPlanning project document.

The Partners consider that culture is central to the vitality of all communities and contributes to societal prosperity. Cultural planning is a place-oriented citizen-driven approach enhancing the quality of life in challenged communities, providing a sense of place, and social inclusion. It provides important social, ecologic, and economic benefits and is crucial for sustainable development of neighbourhoods, towns and rural communities where cultural planning fosters community empowerment and capacity-building, it improves learning and increases emotional and physical well-being.

The Cultural planning approach can be adopted by local authorities without introducing radical changes to existing policies. The adoption allows for developing constructive citizen-authorities cooperation addressing societal challenges and the needs of challenged communities.

### **Articles**

#### **1. Aim of the Cooperation**

The overall aim of the cooperation is to implement the usage of the Cultural Planning method in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in order to advance BSR performance in citizen-citizen and citizen-authorities cooperation by launching Cultural Planning Hubs at national or regional national level, and by forming a network of BSR Cultural Planning Hubs at the transnational level.



## 2. Organisation of the Cooperation

Each Hub is organised at a national or within the regional level of a country as indicated in point 2.1.. At the transnational level the hubs are organised to form the “Baltic Sea Region Network of Cultural Planning Hubs” as indicated in point 2.2.

### 2.1. National or regional national level

- Each Hub is comprised of persons with knowledge about the cultural planning method representing or rooted in public authorities, as well as persons representing or rooted in knowledge intermediaries: experts, universities, foundations and NGOs. Locally, the Hubs can be extended to involve other active members of the communities and other networks with knowledge of the method.
- Each Hub will seek to root, share and further develop the knowledge generated within UrbCulturalPlanning 2019-2021 project in partner regions to tackle societal and ecological challenges through participatory culture.  
This includes to use, or update:
  - the UrbCulturalPlanning Online Platform, including the Urban Toolkit, Transnational Gaming Resources, Policy Roadmap;
  - the lessons learnt on the use of methods (from demonstrator projects, residencies), strategies (from urban labs), and policies (from conferences).
- Each Hub will have the role of:
  - being a focal point and resource for facilitating the use of the Cultural Planning method as appropriate vis a vis cities and rural areas. This can happen e.g. through guidance, support of implementation, capacity building and advancing enabling strategies and policies, or as deemed most relevant;
  - strengthening participation by authorities and civil society on the uptake of the Cultural Planning method.

### 2.2. Transnational level: Baltic Sea Region (BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs)

- The BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs will consist of one appointed contact person from each of the Hubs at national or regional national level. More persons can be appointed if the BSR Network of Hubs so agree;
- The BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs will agree on a division of individual/institutional responsibilities/roles;
- Transnational organisations in the Baltic Sea Region can be supporting organisations of the BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs;
- The role of the BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs at transnational level is to strengthen the regional and bilateral cooperations in further development and use of the Cultural Planning methodology.

### 3. Establishing the organisation of Cooperation

3.1 Areas of joint activities of each of the Hubs and the BSR Network of Hubs shall include but not be limited to the following:

- o information sharing on projects and developments between members of the national or regional national Hubs;
- o explore and agree on further research, innovation and capacity building proposals anchored in transnational BSR cooperation/the regional BSR Network of Hubs;
- o explore and agree with BSR transnational organisations on BSR follow up events or activities, where Cultural Planning can contribute to regional agenda (e.g. consequences of pandemic, health and wellbeing, inclusion, rural planning, sustainability, circular economy etc);
- o exchange of experts and artists who work in the field of Cultural Planning;
- o assistance and consultations in developing and launching programs, projects, and initiatives in Cultural Planning;
- o training and other educational activities, fostering lifelong learning on Cultural Planning in the communities and institutions;
- o exhibitions and other cultural events, promoting the role of cultural planning in sustainable development;
- o coordinate the shared online platform and knowledge developed by UrbCulturalPlanning;
- o contribute to the development of the above mentioned as well as other platforms, data-base and other matters, connected to Cultural Planning.

3.2. Hubs are established in national or regional national areas as listed and approved by Interreg BSR Managing Authority, and UrbCulturalPlanning partners, in the project document of UrbCulturalPlanning. This includes the following areas:

- o Denmark
- o Finland
- o Latvia
- o Lithuania
- o NW Russia
- o Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland
- o Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- o Sweden<sup>1</sup>.

The above mentioned 8 Hubs at national or regional national level, will be confirmed by the relevant UrbCulturalPlanning consortium partners, or with whom they so agree by August 2021.

In the UrbCulturalPlanning project document, it is also specified that additional Hubs may be established in Norway, Estonia, and if possible, Belarus and Ukraine.

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<sup>1</sup> In Sweden the Swedish Cultural Planning Laboratory will become the Swedish Cultural Planning Hub. This was approved in the UrbCulturalPlanning project document, and in the Letter of Support from the Swedish Cultural Planning Laboratory to be UrbCulturalPlanning Associate Organisation in 2018.

3.3 The Partners will cooperate to strengthen the Cultural Planning Hubs and the BSR Network of Cultural Planning Hubs in a spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill. The Hub shall not be a separate legal entity.

3.4 Agreement and acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding are indicated by the signature of the legal representatives of the organisations and other signatories.

3.5. No economic obligation shall be stemming from signature to this MOU, unless agreed otherwise by each Partner separately.

The parties hereby agree to this present Memorandum of Understanding launching a network of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Cultural Planning Hubs.

Signature<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Signature is scanned and sent by e-mail, partners can sign and those they agree with can also sign. The consortium partners are responsible for setting up the Hubs at national or regional national levels. Transnational organisations sign as members or supporting organisations of the BSR network of Cultural Planning Hubs.